

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877
MAY 4, 2006
VOL. 130
No. 18

Celebration, dedication set for May 13

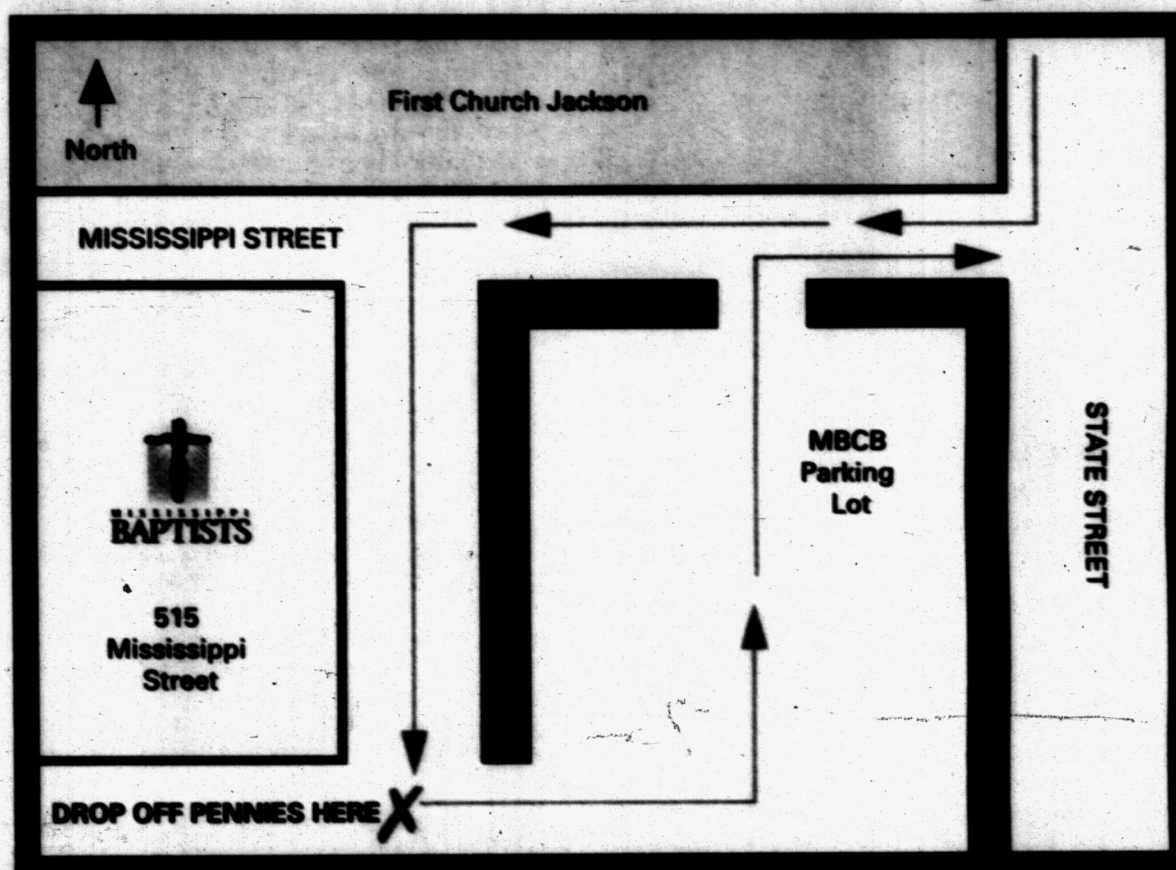
By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptists will gather on May 13 at the Baptist Building in Jackson for a Celebration of Life Rally and the dedication of the Memorial to the Missing — all designed to bring national attention to the 50 million abortions that have occurred in America since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision legalizing the procedure in all 50 states through all nine months of pregnancy.

The memorial will feature a massive, see-through container outside the Baptist Building which will hold 50 million pennies, or one for each of the babies that has been aborted over the past 33 years. Mississippi Baptist leaders have called on the churches of the convention to collect pennies for the memorial and deliver the pennies on May 13 during the rally.

The rally will start at 10 a.m., and pennies can be dropped off at the Baptist Building beginning at 8 a.m. that morning.

To commemorate the lives lost to abortion, an original song written by Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



Cooperative Program Director Jerry Mixon and put to music by First Church, Jackson, pianist Eva Hart will debut at the Celebration of Life Rally.

"It seems only right that this memorial to the 50 million missing children be here in our state. Mississippi has been the most pro-life state in the nation and continues to be strong in its efforts to guard the sanctity of life," wrote Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in his Directions column on page four of this issue of The Baptist Record.

"By your presence and participation, you can say to the entire nation that we care. Many of our churches have been busy collecting pennies for the memorial, and many churches and individuals have already brought their coins to the Baptist Building.

"Just as every penny counts, every precious life counts and must be remembered. Many Sunday School classes and organizations in the church — and some entire congregations — have made a concerted effort to gather all the surplus pennies that have been found in cars, under couches, collected in jars, and just loose change from pockets and purses, to be a part of this tremendous memorial," Futral wrote in his column.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) is coordinating the Memorial to the Missing campaign.

"The Memorial to the Missing is an endeavor that has captivated Mississippi Baptists throughout our state. Churches large and small, urban and rural, have accepted the challenge to raise 50 million pennies," said CAC Executive Director Jimmy Porter.

Porter pointed out that the pennies must be loose (not in rolls) to be placed in the container, which will weigh over 156 tons when completely filled. "We have special bags in

the CAC office that will hold about \$100 in loose pennies. Anyone who needs the bags can contact us; we've already had a number of churches call to report they've filled up their bags and need more," he said.

Vehicles transporting pennies and participants to the May 13 rally are being asked to exit Interstate 55 at High Street and proceed to North State Street. Turn left (south) on North State Street and proceed to Mississippi Street.

Porter said if pennies collected for the memorial cannot be delivered to the Baptist Building on the morning of the rally, other arrangements can be made by calling or e-mailing CAC. Pennies can be dropped off at the Baptist Building at any time during business hours.

"It is my prayer that God will be able to use the memorial to speak to us words of restoration, hope, repentance, and forgiveness, and that His wonderful touch of renewal will remind everyone of us of the wonder of His great goodness and how He values each of us," Futral wrote in his Directions column.

For more information, contact CAC at (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org.

Jennifer Kearschner named 2006 Friend of Bible Drill



Jennifer Kearschner (right), a member of Roseland Park Church, Picayune, was recognized as the 2006 Friend of Bible Drill by Marcus Peagler, Discipleship and Family Ministry Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, during the 2006 Bible Drill state selection tournament on April 8 at First Church, Clinton. Kearschner won both the junior high and senior high Bible Drill state titles, and graduated from William Carey College after attending the Baptist-affiliated school on the Bible Drill scholarship she was awarded. She currently teaches Sunday School for grades 10-12 girls at Roseland Park Church, and recently began a prayer ministry for the girls in that age group. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Futral

Porter



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 18
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Finally, number one at something

Move over, Alaska. Mississippi is about to take your No. 1 spot for boondoggle, pork-barrel federal spending, if the state's two U.S. senators have their way.

Thad Cochran and Trent Lott are teaming up to propose spending an incredible \$700 million — from American taxpayers and foreign governments and individuals who are willing to finance our ballooning federal debt — to fund an "emergency" purchase of the CSX rail line that runs east/west across the state a few blocks off the Mississippi coastline.

That's right. Cochran and Lott want to purchase the CSX rail line, which was repaired after Hurricane Katrina by its owner at a cost of about a quarter of a billion dollars. The reason? Cut through the political doubletalk about hurricane safety and economic development and the answer is: To benefit the casino industry and enrich real estate speculators and developers.

The CSX line sits on some very valuable land, especially since Mississippi legislators voted last fall to permit casinos to move 800 feet north from their previous shoreline moorings. That makes the railway ground zero for development.

Now, one might ask the very reasonable question, "Why would casino and real estate developers want such a narrow strip of land?" Cutting through the political fog once again, the answer most likely is: To reposition U.S. Highway 90, which currently hugs the coastline, to the site of the railroad right-of-way.

That of course leads to another good question: "Why move Highway 90?" Now we're getting to the bottom of this whole affair. The answer is: The future of casinos, at least in Harrison County, is dependent on the physical site of Highway 90.

"WELL, YOU COULD SAY 'AMEN' OR 'PRAISE IT, BROTHER' — BUT MOST PEOPLE DON'T SAY ANYTHING."



House Bill 45, which was passed by the Mississippi Legislature last fall with generous provisions to permit onshore gambling, contains language that ties Harrison County casino development to Highway 90 by allowing gamblers to build 800 feet inland or, "... no farther north than the southern boundary of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater."

If the CSX rail line is purchased with public funds and turned into Highway 90, that's a gift to Harrison County casinos that otherwise would be stuck on the wrong side of the present Highway 90. How convenient.

There were legislators like Senator Hob Bryan, a member of First Church, Amory,

who saw this coming. Bryan posed the question on the floor of the Senate during debate last fall on House Bill 45 as to whether there were any plans to move Highway 90, since certain casino-related provisions of the bill were connected to the highway. He was assured in no uncertain terms that there were no plans to do so.

Six months later, Cochran, a member of Northminster Church in Jackson, and Lott, a member of First Church in Pascagoula, are pushing the \$700 million CSX purchase. What a coincidence.

"It is ludicrous for the Senate to spend \$700 million to destroy and relocate a rail line that is in perfect working order, particularly when it recently underwent a \$250 million repair," said U.S. Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, an outspoken opponent of pork barrel federal spending. "American taxpayers are generous and are happy to restore damaged property. But it is wrong for Senators to turn this tragedy into a giveaway for economic developers."

During their many years in Washington, D.C., Thad Cochran and Trent Lott have accomplished many great things for this country and this state. They are wrong, however, to push the spending of money we don't have for a project we don't need that will mostly benefit casinos and developers. No one wants to see the Mississippi Gulf Coast come back strong more than Mississippi Baptists, but this is not the way to do it.

We elect our senators; we can let them know how we feel about this issue. Cochran can be contacted at U.S. Senate, 326 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-2404. Telephone: (202) 224-5054. To contact him through his web site, go to www.cochran.senate.gov.

Lott can be contacted at 487 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Telephone: (202) 224-6253. To contact him through his web site, to go www.lott.senate.gov.

We are a nation of monuments. They remind us of people who are woven into the fabric of this nation.

Historical events and places should be marked and celebrated. One cannot stand on Gettysburg soil without deep appreciation for the sacrifice of those slain. The most famous statue is the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, a reminder that America promises a land of freedom and opportunity.

We have serious statues that relate to our past, and some that relate to our happier times. If you visit Disney World in Florida, you may have your picture taken by the statue of Mickey Mouse or some other cartoon character.

Statues are not only in our hallowed cemeteries, city parks, gardens, and town squares, but also in our homes. Statues of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and a host of saints decorate our mantles and dressers. Statues may be made of granite, marble, cement, fiberglass, plastic, or a host of other materials. They are sacred, patriotic, honoring, serious, and even humorous, but they are a part of our culture.

Sometimes statues remind us of a trail of tears depicting

GUEST OPINION:



The missing monument

By Jerry Mixon, Director
Cooperative Program
Miss. Baptist Convention Bd.

hard and difficult times. They may convey to us the durability of the human spirit and the perseverance to survive injustice. These statues are as they should be. However, we have been missing one monument.

The churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will meet in front of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson on May 13 to dedicate the Memorial to the Missing. This is to remind us of the 50 million aborted babies who are not here since the enactment of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

I've never seen 50 million of anything except stars, and they were so dispersed across the sky that I could not focus on all

at once. This memorial that sits outside the Baptist Building across from the New Capitol will contain a penny for each of those 50 million aborted lives.

Think about it: 50 million is equal to size of some nations. It is as if a whole nation of people disappeared from the face of the earth. If that had happened in some natural disaster, the world would rise up and there certainly would be a statue in memory and honor of that nation. Should we do less for a nation of babies that have been aborted in the national disgrace of legalized abortion?

These pennies are their faces. What a tragedy. Abortion is an indictment against this nation. It is time for those who believe

that each life is sacred to stand together. We need to put an end to the slaughter of innocent babies. This memorial is for the 50 million missing babies that should have grown into children, teenagers, young adults, and even senior adults. They should be here, but they are missing because of abortion.

This intent of this memorial is not to add guilt and grief to those who suffer today for a foolish decision in their past. It is to awaken us to the truth that abortion treats babies as if they were as insignificant as a penny. We believe life is so important that babies should have the right to live. We consider fighting for them is a sacred trust.

This monument was erected through prayer. We pray for God's forgiveness, and for a demonstration of his love through us toward those who have suffered through an abortion or supported abortion in the past. We pray it will be a call for our nation to weep over the loss of 50 million children who should be here today. We pray that soon we can build a monument signifying the end of abortion and the birth of a new day in America.

Then we can truly say God bless America, again.

Disaster relief vols lauded for relief efforts

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP and local reports) — "It's good to be odd for God."

That's what Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), told yellow-shirted disaster relief leaders at the annual Disaster Relief Roundtable on April 25-27 at Fielder Road Church in Arlington, Texas.

Burton quoted 1 Peter 2:9, which describes Christians as "a peculiar people" set apart to do God's will. Disaster relief volunteers exhibit abnormal behavior as they travel hundreds of miles in crowded vehicles — often with strangers — to volunteer, he said.

"It's not normal to choose to sleep on a floor or shower in a trailer that has wheels on it. It's not normal to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning — if you even get to sleep at all — to cook thousands of meals, often in high heat and high humidity," Burton said.

Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers were on the Gulf Coast within hours of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, and remained for several months to prepare meals, begin cleanup, and offer medical and other services to the storm's victims. Mississippi Baptists continue to be deeply involved in the ongoing long-term recovery effort.

Carrying chainsaws to other states to remove debris from the houses of strangers, packing up materials to care for children they've not yet met, and risking health by shoveling mud and muck out of flooded homes are other indicators that Southern Baptist volunteers don't lead normal lives.

"Folks, you're peculiar, you're different because God has done something in your lives," Burton said. While sitting at home viewing a disaster on television might be easier, he noted, "Our norm is defined by our calling, however peculiar that might be to the rest of the world."

Burton cited examples from among the 51,782 trained Southern Baptist volunteers — half of them new to disaster relief during 2005.



JOB WELL DONE — Southern Baptist disaster relief leaders from around the country gathered at Fielder Road Church in Arlington, Texas, to attend the April 25-27 Disaster Relief Roundtable. Participants heard many expressions of appreciation for their dedication to the mission of disaster relief. (BP photo by Kathleen Murray)

Sarah Trimble, an assistant state feeding coordinator from Florida, led feeding units in Hattiesburg and Lake Charles, La., and later served as a liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Dennis and to the American Red Cross during Hurricane Wilma.

Looking across the audience to Trimble, Burton said, "Sarah, you're not tired and you'd do it again. That's odd and I'm glad," prompting cheers in the crowd.

Jean and Jim Dunn, a California couple who retired to Tennessee, immediately volunteered to provide relief for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. Burton praised the African American couple's faithfulness, while urging the predominantly white audience "to continue to open the gate to invite all of God's volunteers to work with us."

Among the volunteers Burton met in New Orleans was a multi-generational team that traveled from the state of Washington, taking advantage of a spring break to include college students along with retirees.

"It was a beautiful moment seeing a

Record

senior adult and some 20-somethings telling this pregnant woman with a shell-shocked look, "We want to take your hand and pray with you right here."

Even the Cooperative Program's role in funding disaster relief is outside the norm, Burton explained. "Our choice is to cooperate — it's our strength." In less than 20 years, God has taken Southern Baptist Disaster Relief "from buddy burners to mobile units that can produce tens of thousands of meals," Burton said. "He's chosen you for this task. You are set apart. You are His treasure, His possession and that's worth celebrating."

During the 2005 hurricane season, 500 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units representing 41 state conventions operated for 184 days, utilizing 21,000 volunteers whose time amounted to 165,748 volunteer days. That accounted for more than 14.5 million of the 17,124,738 meals prepared by Southern Baptist crews all year.

So. Baptists: 'First resort'

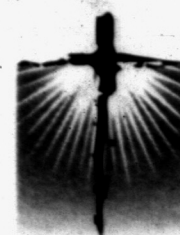
ARLINGTON, Texas (BP and local reports) — The White House director of Faith-Based Initiatives told Southern Baptist volunteers, "No longer are you considered a group of last resort, but a group of first resort. The government doesn't take for granted your contributions, but seeks to take advantage of them." Jim Towey spoke to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief leaders at their Disaster Relief Roundtable April 25-27 at Fielder Road Church in Arlington, Texas. Expressing the gratitude of President George W. Bush for Southern Baptists' response to last summer's hurricanes, Towey said, "The president knows the efforts taken during the disaster relief phase were extraordinary in scope and compassion because government can't love the way your people did. We're looking for ways to make the system of disaster preparedness and relief more faith-friendly so your groups can get in there," he said. "The president doesn't fear faith. When people are devastated and have lost everything, they're looking for hope." The 26 hurricanes and tropical storms recorded in the United States during 2005 broke the record set one year earlier when 11 storms were reported. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued 48 emergency declarations for shelter operations, evacuating 1.4 million people. An unprecedented number of 1,355 shelters across 48 states housed evacuees. While nearly the same number of evacuations occurred in 1992 following Hurricane Andrew, FEMA volunteer agency liaison Ken Skalitzy said 80% of the residents were able to return home that year, compared to only 20% following Hurricane Katrina. Consequently, long-term recovery is a more significant problem in the aftermath of the Gulf Coast devastation. "You just keep coming back and doing more," Skalitzy said, praising Southern Baptists as one of the 500 groups that collectively offered 200,000 volunteers who contributed millions of hours of service last year. Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers were on the Gulf Coast within hours of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, and remained for several months to prepare meals, begin cleanup, and offer medical and other services to the storm's victims. Mississippi Baptists continue to be deeply involved in the ongoing long-term recovery effort.

Looking back

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission joins a chorus of state pro-family groups calling for a special legislative session to address the possibility that Hawaii may soon sanction same-sex marriages, forcing other states to accept the unions under interstate provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

A group of Mississippi Baptists, that includes five health professionals and 13 Baptist Student Union directors at Mississippi State University head to the African nation of Burkina Faso to participate in an agricultural missions project.

Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson announces a program to provide free medical care to residents of the Baptist Children's Village, the Methodist Orphanage, the Children's Home Society, the Old Ladies' Home, and the Old Men's Home.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 4, 2006

VOL. 130

No. 18



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
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tual guidance.*

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EVERY PENNY PERSON COUNTS

Your help is needed and deeply appreciated. We are about a week away from a celebration of life as we remember the 50 million children who, following the decision of our Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*, were not permitted to live. This year marks the date when we will pass that ominous and incomprehensible number. To pause and mark this day in history, we are asking folks all across Mississippi to join us on Saturday, May 13, at the Baptist Building just across from the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson to help fill a huge glass container with 50 million pennies.

It seems only right that this memorial to the 50 million missing children be here in our state. Mississippi has been the most pro-life state in the nation and continues to be strong in its efforts to guard the sanctity of life. By your presence and participation, you can say to the entire nation that we care. Many of our churches have been busy collecting pennies for the memorial, and many churches and individuals have already brought their coins to the Baptist Building. Just as every penny counts, every precious life counts and must be remembered. Many Sunday School classes and organizations in the church — and some entire congregations — have made a concerted effort to



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

gather all the surplus pennies that have been found in cars, under couches, collected in jars, and just loose change from pockets and purses, to be a part of this tremendous memorial. If your church is not involved in any special effort to help, that does not prevent you from doing something. If your church cannot gather the pennies and get them here, check with your director of associational missions and if he is unable to connect you or help you, just call the Christian Action Commission at (601) 292-3329 or (800) 748-1651, ext. 3329. They will do everything they can to assist you.

When you come to the gathering on May 13, you will be a part of a service of dedication. The service will be rather brief and will include a beautiful song written just for this occasion and memorial. You will hear some meaningful and moving testimonies of God at work in beautiful ways in spite of the losses. Hopefully, you will bring some

of your pennies to be a part of an incredible memorial to the 50 million missing children. The container sits on the corner of President and Mississippi Streets and is a glass enclosure enabling people to see the pennies from every direction. It measures 17 feet by 13 feet by 7 feet high. You have never seen anything like this, because there has never been anything like it.

Why did we bother to do such a thing? Why would you bother to come and share in the moment and to bring your pennies to be a part of the 50 million? *The memorial will be a visible expression* of what abortion has done to our nation. No, a penny cannot begin to show the worth of one person. There is no way that it can be multiplied to show the value of what one life could have been, but 50 million pennies combined will show the enormity of what has taken place over these days, months, and years.

The memorial will also be a vocal expression in that it will speak to every one of us. It is

my prayer that God will be able to use the memorial to speak to us words of restoration, hope, repentance, and forgiveness, and that His wonderful touch of renewal will remind everyone of us of the wonder of His great goodness and how He values each of us.

Finally, *the memorial is a victorious expression*. Some who may have been driven to the decision to have an abortion by fear, guilt, alienation, and pressure from others have already come to know that God can bring about new days and new ways in their lives as they seek Him. We may wonder and dream of what God could have done through the lives of these 50 million who are missing, but we do not need to lose sight of the wonder of what God can do through the precious lives of people who chose to abort their babies one by one by one. While the life of the child may have been cut short, the life of a young mother needs to be given new hope, new direction, and victory that can only come through our living, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gather your pennies, get them to us, and if at all possible bring them and share in a celebration of life at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, in front of the Baptist Building.

*The author may be contacted at
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First Baptist Church, Magee Weekday Education Program is having its fall 2006 registration. Please call 601-849-4062 or drop by the center at 222 1st St. N.W. Magee, MS, to receive information about registration and programs available at the center.

FBC Magee, Weekday Education Program admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and other school-administered programs.

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*For references and more
information, call Mike Brooks at
601-420-0174 or 1-800-442-0290.*



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 4, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Church Compliance and Financial Issues

Regional Conferences, 2006

with Glen Britt, retired IRS Auditor, CPA

6 - 8:30 p.m.

Supper Included

Cost \$5

Reservations Please

July 11, 2006

First Baptist Church, Oxford

July 24, 2006

First Baptist Church, Winona

September 18, 2006

New Site Baptist Church, Brookhaven

September 19, 2006

38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

For Reservations: Call Financial Services Representative, MBCB
(formerly Annuity Board Rep) 1.800.748.1651 or 601.292.3227

Robin D. Nichols or Carol Taylor, Ministry Assistant

Growing Churches 2006

with Bishop Garaywa

Sessions:

Family Ministry

Discipleship

Youth Ministry

Sunday School

Small Churches

Women's Ministry

Preschool/Children's

Ministry

Bible Drills

Bible Buddies

Speaker's Tournament

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Speaker

Argile Smith

Vice President for
Advancement
William Carey College

FOR PROGRAM
INFORMATION

Contact the District
Family Ministry Rep

601-292-3227

1-800-748-1651

Registration: 2 p.m., Thursday

Reports: after lunch, Saturday

"... tell
people
about
everywhere ..."

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night
July 21, 2006 • Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson
6:30 p.m. • Doors open at 5:45 p.m.

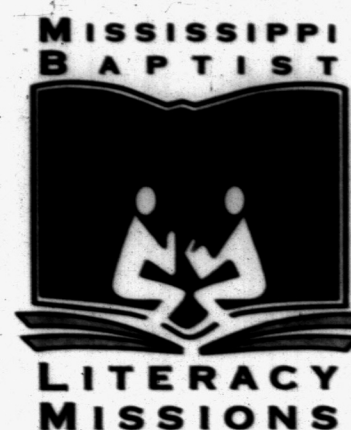


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July 14, 2006**

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Meals: \$6 each**

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- *English as a Second Language*

Track Two - 8 Hour Workshops (Friday and Saturday)

- *Experienced English as a Second Language*
- *English as a Foreign Language*
- *Chronological Bible Storying*

Track 3 - Seminars (Friday and Saturday)

- *How to start a literacy mission ministry in your church or association*
- *How to do a needs assessment in your community*
- *Culturally speaking ... what is culturally speaking?*

*Send registration to Paula Smith or Alicia Hatch,
Literacy Missions Ministry*

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

*For more information: Paula Smith, 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 336, psmith@mbcb.org.*



The Baptist Children's Village



SHARING HOPE *Through the message of Christ*

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world . . . My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.

(John 17:18, 20)

Last year more than 30 BCV children made spiritual decisions. Seeing lives changed for eternity is the goal of staff missionaries at The BCV as they share with children about the hope found in Christ. Our prayers, however, are not for them alone, but for those they will impact as they grow and mature in their faith. The legacy of The BCV includes families forever changed for the glory of God. It is this legacy we want to continue.

The Mission of The Baptist Children's Village

is to help children and their families fully understand and experience the healing ministry of Christ by meeting their daily needs, and inspiring them to become Christian adults who are happy, healthy and mature.

The Baptist Child

An individual Plan of Care is developed for each child who comes to The Baptist Children's Village. This Plan of Care ensures that staff missionaries are helping nurture and grow the child in all four areas of the S.A.F.E. Track.

Spiritual Growth
Academic Achievement
Family Values
Emootional Strength

Just as we watch a flower grow and develop in spring, we celebrate the growth of children as we observe God at work in their lives. Countless Spiritual, Academic, Family and Emotional victories are won as children grow and flourish at The Baptist Children's Village.

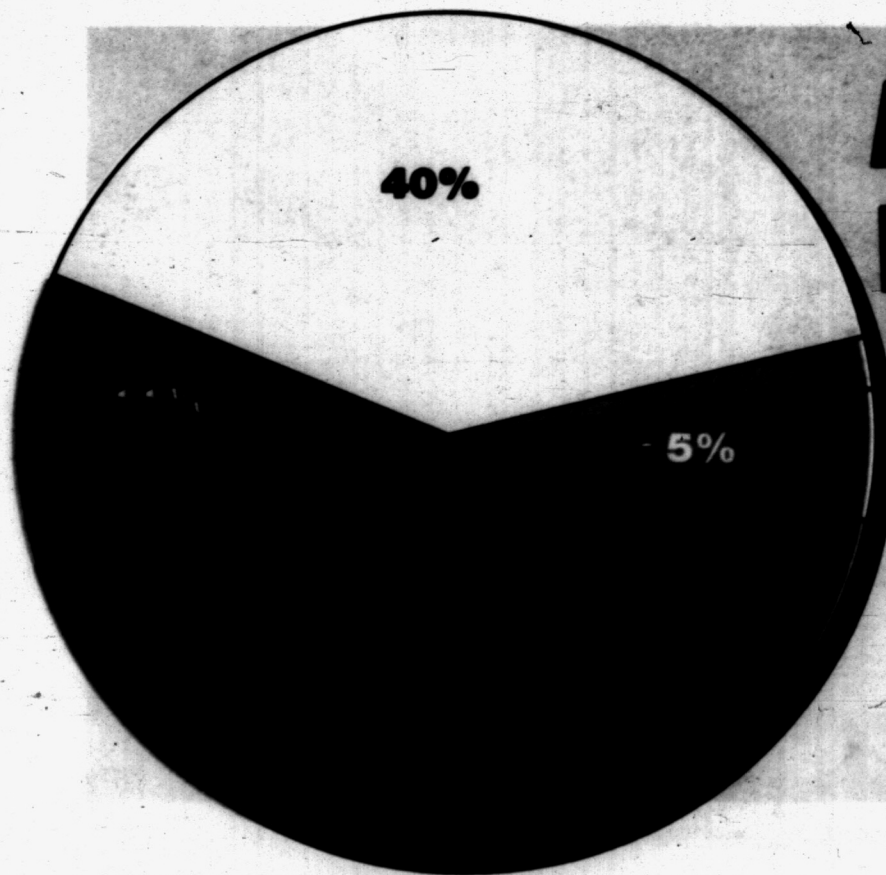


Children's Village

The Baptist Children's Village Mother's Day Offering is important because...

- The BCV cares for over 300 children annually
- The BCV staff missionaries work to teach children the Bible and see them come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord. Last year, over 30 children made personal spiritual decisions.
- The BCV is privately funded and has remained so throughout its 109 year history.
- The S.A.F.E. Track program has proven to be an effective tool in nurturing BCV children.
- Church giving makes up 40% of the BCV annual budget.

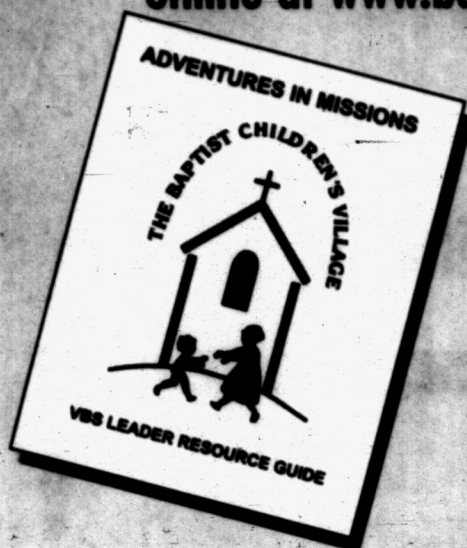
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



How Are We Funded?

- Individuals
- Churches
- Cooperative Program
- Investment (endowments)
- Parental Support

The BCV 2006 VBS Resource Guide is now available online at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.



For more information contact Celeste Cade, Public Relations Associate
ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com
 or call 601.922.2242 to order your copy today.

**To help me promote
 The Baptist Children's Village Mother's Day Offering
 May 14, 2006**

Please send me the following materials:

- ☐ Baptist Record Posters
- ☐ Bulletin Inserts
- ☐ CD for Power Point Presentation
- ☐ Offering Envelopes

Please mail these materials to:

Name _____
 Church _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____

Clip and mail or FAX form to:

The Baptist Children's Village

P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242 FAX (601) 922-0367

Order online at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

HONOR YOUR PARENTS

You may not be able to repay your parents for all they have done for you, but you can honor them with a gift to The Baptist Children's Village. The BCV will send an acknowledgment to your special loved one as an honor/memorial on Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Mother's Day/Father's Day Honor Gift

The enclosed gift of ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other
 is in (please circle) honor or memory of my parent(s).

Parent Name(s) _____ Donor Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City _____ City _____

State _____ State _____

Zip _____ Zip _____

Given on the occasion of: ☐ Mother's Day ☐ Father's Day

Please mail to The Baptist Children's Village, P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027

How can we help?

PRAY...

For Residents
 For Staff missionaries
 For the Board of Trustees

GIVE...

To support daily needs
 To provide for unexpected needs
 Needed non-cash items

LEARN...

About resources available to help families
 About current needs

Tour the Central Headquarters

Visit the website @ www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

VOLUNTEER...

To help repair cottages
 To save Campbell's Labels
 To collect needed items
 To serve as a visiting family

REFER...

Families in need



Online giving now available at
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

**Mother's Day Offering Goal
 \$380,000**

P.O. Box 27 • Clinton • Mississippi • 39060-0027 • 601-922-2242

GA Camp Dates

GRADES 3-6 (COMPLETED 3RD GRADE)

JUNE: 5-9, 12-16, 19-23 (full), 26-30

JULY: 10-14 (full), 17-21, 24-28

Acteens Camp Dates

JUNE: 26-30 JULY: 17-21

CAMP ACTIVITIES

- Drama • Skit Nights • Clowning • Mission Projects • Music
- Nature Hikes • Meeting Missionaries • Mission Emphasis • Crafts
- Morning Devotions • Bible Study • Swimming • Recreation • Campfire
- Worship • Making New Friends

The **TOTAL FEE** for Camp (girls who have completed grades 3 through 12) is **\$150**. (This includes the registration fee, snacks, crafts, lodging, meals and camper insurance.) This fee is payable in full with the registration form.

REGISTRATION is administered by Camp Garaywa. We will continue to take reservations until all camps are full.

PLEASE PRAY that our staff will be an example to our campers this summer as they follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Contact the wMu office for
REGISTRATION FORMS:

1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3316 (Jackson area)

THEME:
"Life on
the Trail"
1 Peter 2:21

State Senior Adult Retreats

Making a Difference in Your Life

RETREAT I

May 15-17, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Preacher - Bill Baker, former pastor, FBC, Clinton

Choir - Lincoln Chorale, Brookhaven (Monday)

Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 8

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - Charles Welch

- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Paul Harrell, Jackson

- Reality of Experiencing God - Julius Thompson, Clinton

- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Gene Rester, Jackson

Morning Watch - Gordon Sansing, Forest

Afternoon class *HiStory of Hymn* - Irene Martin, Harpersville

COST
determined
by lodging
preference

RETREAT II

May 22-24, FBC, Natchez (601-442-1464)

Preacher - Jack Glaze, former NOBTS/MC professor

Choirs - FBC, Raleigh (Monday)

Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 15

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - Jeff Doremus, Brookhaven

- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Don Stewart, Hattiesburg

- Reality of Experiencing God - John McCall, Clinton

- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Mickey Bounds, Farmersville, La.

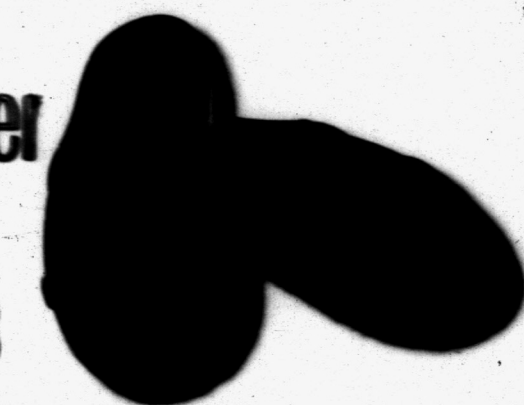
Morning Watch - Talmadge Smith, Brookhaven

Afternoon class *HiStory of Hymn* - Irene Martin, Harpersville

COST
- \$30 (includes
two suppers)
- Commuters
Fee - \$20 for
retreat
(no meals)

INFO: Contact
the
Discipleship
& Family
Ministry
Office,
601-292-3284
or
1-800-748-1651

2006 Summer Youth Camps



June 5-28

Hinds Community College
Raymond, Miss.

- Affordable
- High Quality Camp for your Youth Group
- Program fees, meals, t-shirt and accommodations total just **\$165** per camper
- Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Information regarding individual programs/schedules may be obtained by phoning Youth Ministry at 601-292-3286.

Camp Pastors & Worship Leaders
June 5-9

Gary Permenter, Kevin Williams

June 12-16

Jon Daniels, Will Reedy

June 16-20

Clay Stegall, Will Reedy

June 20-24

Ken Hester, Tom Edwards

June 24-28

Kevin Cooper, Tom Edwards

Pray this day for...

May 5-18, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"The life of the believer is intended to be the history of Jesus Christ rewritten."
- T. Austin Sparks

For: (1) Christian Home Week (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Please pray today for Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada (Island) northeast of Venezuela in the Caribbean.

The team working with middle- and upper-class urban dwellers in the megacity of Rio de Janeiro report: "At a breakfast meeting on April 1, F and I officially presented their project - the Santa Church Plant in Rio de Janeiro. Lift them up in prayer."

For: (1) AET (Associational Leadership Training), FBC, Clinton, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (CG); (2) "Pray for wisdom about where the representative Martha Moore's first place of service should be," writes Team Shalom. She has scouted out three cities for possible future work. She feels God is releasing her to move this fall.

Dan and Darlene Shirlen, Houston, Texas, MSC missionaries, work in children's apartment ministry. Pray for recruiting and training of teens to serve in the "Five-day Clubs" in apartments and day cares this summer, and for their monthly "Reaching Today's Child" seminars.

Over the coming months, IMB representatives will be prayerwalking in many areas of Croatia where there is no evangelical or Baptist witness. Ask that through the prayers of His servants God would prepare the way for the people to come to know Him and that He would remove the barriers there.

For: (1) Witnessing Through Media, Park Place BC, Pearl, 6 p.m., 5th-3:30 p.m., 6th (CS); (2) Wayne Spies is a chaplain for a joint task force that will deploy soon. Many returned from Iraq last year and served in the aftermath of Katrina. Pray for Wayne and the men as they return to duty.

Donna Guillott, Bismarck, N.D., is the mission education director for the Dakota Baptist Convention. Pray for Donna as she encourages churches across the Dakotas to be "on mission." Pray for traveling safety as she crosses the Dakota prairies in all kinds of weather.

David Livingstone, the father of African missions, noted the objections to mission work popular in his day - too dangerous, too expensive, and too distant. He pointed out that merchants, etc., didn't think the region too dangerous, distant or expensive. How much more should Christians go to gain the Lord's approval?

Please pray for the believers in the city of Urumqi, China, as there has been a crackdown recently on religious expression. Some of them have been experiencing a spirit of fear. Pray that the Lord will abolish this stronghold and that believers will feel the peace of the Lord and rely on His promises.

For: (1) MOTHERS DAY; (2) Missionary Nancy Norton of Fukushu, Japan, writes: "I, a 50-year-old babe in Christ, has continued to seek to grow in Christ through discipleship. We are meeting twice a month, and we hope to meet more as we grow together. Pray that she will keep her desire to know Jesus."

Larry Theisen, Dover, Penn., is director of missions and CPM for the Keystone Association. Pray for seven new churches to be planted in 2006, for God to move established churches to partner in starting new churches, and for a massive media campaign this spring.

In the last 15 years, the Gospel has taken root in Uzbekistan, and there are an estimated 5,000 new believers across the country. Most of these are Muslims, or meet in very small groups for fear of cultural and political persecution, and often in distrust of each other! Pray for unity among them so trust will grow.

Hilltops are often used for spirit and idol worship. Pray that on each hilltop and mountain throughout Nepal, Jesus Christ would receive His due praise because of His church being planted and multiplied.

Mark Diddle is a reserve Army chaplain currently serving in Iraq. Pray for his safety as he travels and for wisdom and grace as he ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of the soldiers.



Single Adult Retreat

The Power Behind

N E S S



May 19-21
Central Hills

RESERVATIONS may be made by phone with a Visa/MasterCard, 601-292-3304.
FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:
Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office
601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651.

BREAKOUTS

"Power Behind the Jar of Laughter"
Mickey Bounds
Farmersville, La.

"Power Behind the Temple" (Health)
Randy Oswalt
Founder of Sta-Fit
Vicksburg

"Power Behind Your Moral Compass"
James Haynes
Minister of Singles
Biloxi

"Power Behind the Spirit"
Gwen Williams
Miss Chocolate
Baton Rouge

"Power Behind Acts 1:8" (Missions)
Eileen Wright
Alabama Singles
Consultant



Concert
Matt Blagg & Band, Texas

Encourage a MK with a card today!

7/1/91
MISS LAUREN E. TABOR
Parents: Michael and Jeana
Media Consultation/South America

7/3/85
MISS HEATHER M. BROWN
Parents: John and Claudia
CESA: General Evangelism

7/13/89
MR. JOSHUA BROWN
Parents: John and Claudia
CESA: General Evangelism

7/25/86
MR. MARK D. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America: Student Evangelism

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Preacher's Pounding, Coldwater Church, Neshoba County

1. Coldwater Church, Neshoba County, recently surprised their new pastor with a pounding. Shown are pastor Robin Brumfield, Zoe Brumfield, and Michael Brumfield.

2. Children and youth from the Pilgrim's Rest Church, Eupora, are shown presenting their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$134. They raised the money by baking and selling an assortment of



2. Annie Armstrong Fundraiser, Pilgrim's Rest Church, Eupora



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

munchies each Sunday morning in March. Front row, Dustin Denley, Brandy Denley, and Ladye Leora Faulk; back row, Iva Ruth and Chloe Rose Faulk.

3. First Church Sharon, Laurel, recognizes their children and youth Bible drillers and leaders. Shown, from left, are Ronell Barnard, Nancy Barnard, Autumn Barnard, Benjamin Holifield, Brittany Lee, and Beth Myers.

4. Central Grove Church, Aberdeen, recognizes its Bible drillers. From left, Whitney S., Beverly P., Ethan H., Rachel H., Halie I., and Ashley M.

5. Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association for 2006 are, from left: Jimmie D. Garrard, Sr., President-elect; Joe V. Young, President; and Dennis Duvall, Secretary.

6. Northcrest Church, Meridian, is hosting 4Him in concert May 11, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$14, \$18, and \$12 for groups of 10 or more. For information, call (601) 482-3498.

7. Liberty Church, Liberty, will hold Vacation Bible School June 12-16, 8:30 a.m.-noon, with family day Fri., 11:30 a.m.

8. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, is hosting a gospel sing/worship service Apr. 30, 6 p.m., featuring the Meyers Family. A love offering will be taken.

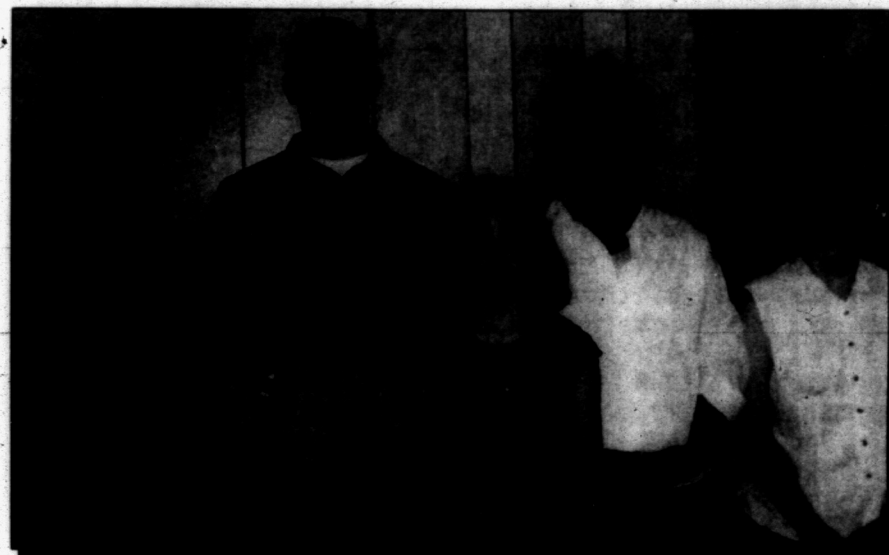
9. Congregational Health Nurse Certification meetings will be held May 31-June 3 at Patterson Place at Camp Garaywa. Registration by May 9. \$50 deposit; total fee is \$500 which includes lodging, some meals, materials, etc. To register or for more information, call (601) 925-3391 or email bolian@mc.edu.

10. Friendship Church, Aberdeen, is hosting Marty Funderburk and Scott Wilemon in concert May 6, 6:30 p.m. Love offering to be taken.

11. Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, recognizes its children's Bible drillers.



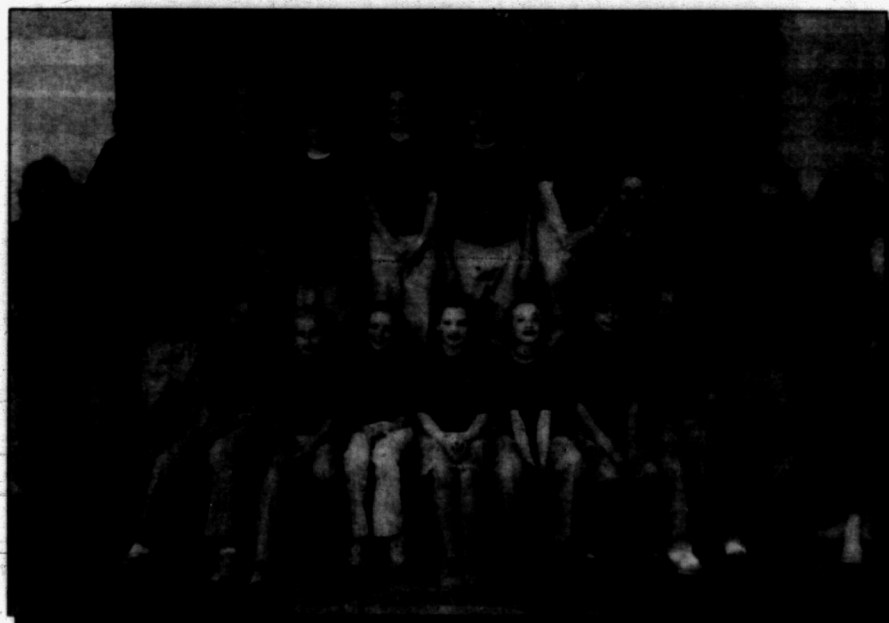
3. Bible Drillers, First Church Sharon, Laurel



4. Bible Drillers, Central Grove Church, Aberdeen



5. Garrard, Young, and Duvall, Mississippi Chaplains Association



11. Bible Drillers, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale

Filling your home with God's beauty

SBC 2006 Ministers' Wives' Luncheon
June 13, 2006 | Twelve in the afternoon
Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons
Greensboro, North Carolina

You are cordially invited to attend an afternoon tea with internationally-admired interior designer, Mr. Georg Andersen, whose clients have included the Arkansas Governor's Mansion and the White House.

Program will include an afternoon high tea menu, music, word from Mr. Andersen, and more...

To register on-line, log on to www.swbts.edu/conferences, scroll down to the "2006 Ministers' Wives' Lunch."

To register by telephone, call toll-free 1.877.467.9287.

For more information, email Southwestern Seminary's Women's Auxiliary Coordinator Becky Campbell at rcampbell@swbts.edu or call her at 817.923.1921, Ext. 7200.

Tickets are \$10 per person.



1. Travis Scholarship Recipients, BMC

1. The 2006-2007 recipients of Travis Scholarships were named during the annual meeting of Blue Mountain College's Ministerial Alumni Association. The program provides scholarships to BMC students preparing for church-related vocations. Recipients were: (front row, left to right) Dallas Pitts, Bill Blackmon, Nick Hughes, Jack Napier, Kristopher Beville, Austin Kimbrough; (second row, left to right) Teddy James, Joe Stewart, Sam Henderson, Scott Hudson, Matt King, Lewis Williams; (third row, left to right) Chris Ferguson,

Ranier Jumper, Jeff Smith, Jonathan Bryant, Jonathan Cagle; (fourth row, left to right) Ryan Mouser, Robert Ekis, Phillip Carithers, Jesse Huggins, Andrew Best.

2. The Mississippi College Honors Day Convocation was held on April 18 in A. E. Wood Coliseum on campus. Outstanding students were recognized for their academic achievements and service to the University. The highest honors presented included the Hall of Fame, Scott-Swor Founders Award, and the Student Body honors awards. Chosen for this year's Hall



2. Honors Day Convocation, MC

of Fame award are (pictured from the left): Elliott Colby Vines, Philadelphia; Megan Davis Kash, Brandon; Lee Royce, President of MC; Katie Rice Royals, Madison; and Wesley Kyle McGehee, Brookhaven.

3. The 2006 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of twelve students from Blue Mountain College. The students were selected in recognition of their outstanding merit and accomplishments as campus leaders. Honorees include: (seated, left to right) Kim Lancaster, Brooke McClain, Jennifer Turner, and Amy Ledbetter; (standing, left to right) Amanda McCombs, Amber Hughes, Jeff Harrison, Jason Middleton, Bettye Rogers Coward — President, Sharon Enzor — Vice President for Academic Affairs, Casey Russell, James Underwood, Jesi Rogers, and Jennifer Worsham.

4. Blue Mountain College's Baptist Student Union held its annual commissioning service for summer missionaries and workers at Lowrey Memorial Church. Tom Sumrall, pastor of Lowrey Memorial, presented the challenge to the 21 students who will be serving at Camp Garaywa and throughout the United States, Canada, Burkina Faso, Jamaica, and Australia.

5. William Carey College students were honored at the Centennial Honors Day Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Tommy King, vice president of WCC, presented the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Award to Samantha Benson of Taylorsville; Josiah Burns



3. Who's Who, BMC



4. Commissioning Service, BMC

of Pace, Fla.; and Pamela Joy Love of Petal. Burns also received the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, the Joe Roberts Forensics Society Memorial Award, and the Student Leadership Award. Jason Shows of Laurel and Jessica Merchant of Crystal Springs were named Mr. and Miss William Carey College. John Blackmon of Foxworth received the Alumni Association School Spirit Award. Josh Johnson of Laurel received the Allen Williams Award. Student Government Association President Shannon Armstrong presented the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year Award to Dan Browning of the religion department. Bennie Crockett of the religion department was named Administrator of the Year. Audrey Morgan, student activities director, was named Staff Member of the Year. Florent Source of Angers, France was recog-

nized for being named NAIA Academic All American. Derek Armstrong of Maryville, Mo. was named the Baptist Student Union Outstanding Leadership Team Member and Karin Buerkle of Raton, N. Mex. received the BSU Outstanding Service Award.

6. Chick-fil-A founder and CEO Truett Cathy will present the commencement address during Blue



Cathy

Mountain College's 133rd annual commencement exercise. Graduation will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium. Ninety-three students will receive degrees.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: www.gulfshorescondos.com. All size units available, SPRING SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$160. Four weeknights \$250. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids) good thru 5/25, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-5124.

PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA, seeks full-time minister of education. Send resume to Parkview Baptist Church, minister of education search committee, 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, DENHAM SPRINGS, LA, a conservative Southern Baptist Church, is seeking a full time Associate Pastor of Christian Education/Music. Send resumes to Riverside Baptist Church, search committee, Danny Britton, Chairman, 36890 LA Hwy 16, Denham Springs, LA 70706,

or email to rbcbsc@bellsouth.net.

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATOR/ ASSISTANT PASTOR: please send resumes to search committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 579, Phil Campbell, AL, 35581, or email: moorecscott@aol.com.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. **DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES.** Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

ATTENTION MINISTERS OF MUSIC! Dealer Representatives are needed in selected areas to handle product sales to churches. Excellent earning potential with flexible hours. Send resume by email to gshahine@murphyrobes.com or fax to: (727) 526-2522.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAYNESVILLE is seeking a full-time student minister. Duties would include some children activities. Send resumes to First Baptist Church search committee, 2021 Main Street, Haynesville, LA 71038.

PHEBA BAPTIST CHURCH COOKBOOKS, \$20 each. Over 500 recipes from our best cooks of the past, current members and friends. To reserve your copy, call (662) 494-6428.

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CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO. CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

MS POSITIONS

SEEKING BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Submit resumes with references to: Lena Baptist Church, P.O. Box 161 Lena, MS 39094, Attn. Rev. Jamie Moore.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, has a need for a part-time choir/music leader. Please send resume to Rt. 1, Box 183, Coila, Miss., 38923 or call (662) 455-3892 after 6 p.m.

FBC SHANNON, MISS., IS SEEKING A YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER. Send resume to FBC personnel committee, P.O. Box 21, Shannon, MS 38868.

INTERIM PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. For consideration, send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Rd., Clinton MS, 39056; fax

(601) 924-8378; email pineviewbc@afo.net; Attn: search committee. Deadline: May 31.

PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER to complete our ministry team. For consideration, send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Rd., Clinton MS, 39056; fax (601) 924-8378; email pineviewbc@afo.net; Attn: Search Committee. Deadline: May 31.

SILVER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a Minister of Music. It is a part-time, paid position with some benefits.

Please send resume to: Chairman of Search Committee, 1009 Berry Lane, Osyka, MS 39657. SSBC is located south of Progress (which is south of Magnolia) in southeast Pike County.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Ruth: Gracious Caring

Ruth 1:15-17, 2:2-7, 10-12, 4:13-17

By Huey Dedmon

It has been such a privilege for me to share with you over the past few lessons about the days that led up to the death of Jesus. We have been humbled by the awesome sacrifice He made for us on the cross and brought to life by the victory He won by His resurrection. It has been incredible to witness through scripture the coming of the Holy Spirit and the powerful change He has made in our lives. Now we turn our attention to a passage in the Old Testament that pictures the power of God working in a woman committed to care for another. Our story this week is the story of Ruth. The book of Ruth is about a woman who exemplifies gracious car-

ing, even when the person she was caring for could give nothing in return. As we explore the book of Ruth, I hope we will learn that a caring attitude in our lives shows our devotion to God and that the power of a caring attitude can have a tremendous impact on life situations.

Ruth is a Moabite woman who has married into the family of an Israelite named Elimelech. Elimelech dies in the land of Moab and leaves his wife, Naomi, and their two sons. Naomi's two sons also die. This leaves Naomi with her two daughter-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah. She decides to return home to Judah. Naomi implores her daughter-in-laws to return to their own father's homes. Orpah



Dedmon

finally agrees, but Ruth would not leave her mother-in-law. Ruth's commitment to stay with Naomi defies all worldly logic. Naomi had nothing to offer Ruth except a life filled with grief and suffering. Ruth's response has become the center piece of many marriage vows.

"Do not persuade me to leave you or go back from following you. For wherever you go I will go and wherever you live I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do this to me and even more, if anything but death separates you and me." (HCSB 1:16-17) Why? Because Ruth's response shows us the kind of devotion it takes to have a dynamic relationship. It also is an example of the kind of devotion we should have for God. Ruth had to commit herself to Naomi and to all that lay ahead of them.

If we are going to show this kind of gracious care in our lives we must make the kind of commitment Ruth made to Naomi.

Naomi and Ruth traveled to Bethlehem. Ruth immediately begins to take the initiative and look for ways she can provide for Naomi and herself. She asked permission to gather fallen grain in a nearby field. (HCSB 2:2) Fallen grain is the grain that falls out of the bundles during the harvest. Ruth was in the right place at the right time. The owner of the field, Boaz, a relative of Naomi's, came by that day and took a great interest in Ruth. (v5) The servant reported that she was the one who had returned with Naomi, and had asked to gather the fallen grain. (v7) A good deed often puts us right where God wants us to be. Believers should never wait for requests to help others, but should demonstrate their love for God by taking the initiative to serve.

Ruth's commitment to Naomi was apparent, but we

see in Boaz's assessment of the character of Ruth, that her commitment to God had grown also. (v11-12) He had heard of the sacrifice she had made to leave her land and take care of Naomi. He even put her on the same level with the children of Israel when he told her he hoped she would "receive a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." (v12) Caring for others takes personal sacrifice. Your plans may have to change and often your life may have to change. We also see that God blesses those who commit to care for others. God rewarded Ruth by giving her a husband and a child. (4:13-17) Ruth's son, Obed, was the grandfather of King David. Remember, God sees the big picture. What seems to be sacrifice to us may often be the door that opens God's richest blessings to us. All we need to do is trust in the Father.

Dedmon is minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Recognize God's Ways

Isaiah 53:1-12

By Lori Clendinning

When I was a teenager my brother's friend was given a popular board game called "Risk" as a birthday gift. The game's challenge was to eliminate opponents using military strength and savvy to capture as much of the world as possible. I recall not being very good at this game, but that our friend grasped the concept of world domination and obliterated anyone who dared play him. I remember thinking that if this was truly how grownups ran countries, I would not be very successful in a world that showed no mercy.

Sadly, many in our world are power hungry. Their goal is greater control over others and over situations. They greedily grasp for all the power within their reach. These persons also respect those who demonstrate pow-

erful authority and look down on others who appear weak and powerless.

Such thinking, however, is contrary to the ways of God, who has chosen to work through the weak and despised to accomplish His glorious purposes. Through the life and death of His Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ, God has demonstrated the unexpected ways He often works to achieve His purposes.

This week's lesson in Isaiah 53 highlights the unusual choices God makes in reaching His objectives. He uses unlikely people (v.1-3), unexpected means (v.4-6), and even undeserved suffering (7-9).

The Suffering Servant is introduced in Isaiah 52:13-15, in what is referred to by Bible scholars as the fourth Servant Song. Written seven centuries before Christ's crucifixion, it has been described



Clendinning

as the pinnacle of Old Testament revelation. Quotations from it are found in the four Gospels and in several other New Testament epistles. The primary concern is not with the suffering of the Servant, although that is rather pronounced, but rather His ultimate victory over suffering.

Isaiah pointed to a loving, Suffering Servant whom God would provide as atonement for sin. A picture of Jesus Christ is drawn so completely in these passages and His suffering is painfully poignant.

The description in Isaiah 53:2 continues this picture, using the terms "young plant" and "root out of dry ground." These words reference someone from whom divine blessing has been withheld in contrast to the comparison of one divinely blessed with a well-watered plant. The Hebrew word "despised" in verse 3 translates to mean someone worthless, insignificant, or unworthy of attention.

Only our great and amazing God would work through

someone whom society rejects or views as insignificant. How comforting this is to modern-day believers as we try to serve God in this beauty or success-driven society. God chooses the unlovely to love the world.

God also uses unexpected means to accomplish His purposes. The Suffering Servant was treated unjustly, but God worked even through the oppression of wicked people to achieve His intentions. Those who mistreated His Servant were accountable to God for their actions. Those who afflicted Him meant it for evil, but God turned their actions for His good purposes. God works contrary to human thinking to attain heavenly objectives.

God also uses undeserved suffering. In verses 7-9, the emphasis is on the sheep imagery. As primary animals of sacrifice, sheep were not known for any aggression when headed for slaughter. Likewise, no words of self-pity or accusation came from Jesus' lips as He faced His crucifixion. There were no loud or bitter cries of injustice, only silence as He was placed on the cross.

During this historical time, it

was believed that if anyone was suffering, it was because he had sinned. However, the Servant suffered not for anything wrong He had done but for the sin of others. God used His Servant's undeserved suffering to reach His glorious purposes.

Philippians 2:8-9 focuses on God's intent in allowing His Servant to suffer: "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name." Jesus' life and death was the epitome of faithfulness and His reward the highest possible.

Even today, God works through His faithful people and rewards them appropriately, whether in this time or eternity. Oh, that we may be found faithful and embrace our sufferings as Jesus Christ, that God may accomplish His purposes in our lives and so be honored and glorified.

That is the risk worth taking!

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Request to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

The Baptist Record

Bibliocipher

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RZV QKQF BQVQLFOZ

MQVQ UQ STDDQP;

WQSTLNQ SBVCNO TDNZ

NLRRQVQP RZV LN,

DQTKCFA LN TF

QJTEGDQ, OBTO UQ

NBZLDP RZDDZM BCN

NOQGN.

RCVNO GQOQV OMZ:

OMQFOU-ZFQ

Clue: U = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Four: Twelve.

STATE CHANGES

Louis Zinc has been called to New Hope Church, Foxworth, as minister to students. He comes to New Hope from First Church, Oxford, and has served at Ogletown Church, Newark, Del. He is originally from Bay St. Louis and is working on an M. Div degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Zinc

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, has called Greg Barker as pastor. Barker comes from First Church, Fayette, Ala.

Barker

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Bible Drillers, Fredonia Church, New Albany

1. Fredonia Church, New Albany, recognizes its youth Bible drillers: Rob Browning, Michael Martin, Hunter Aslin, Lyndi Kidd, Morgan Lyons, Maggie Cobb, Blake Conlee, Jared Carter, and Seth Cobb.

2. South McComb Church, McComb, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front, from left: Anna Bowlin, Meghan Miller, Bailee Fleming, Isaac Bowlin, and Austin Brown; back row, from left: Zack McDaniel, Alex Brown, Drew Brown, Noah Bowlin, Tanner Whittington, and Leah Bowlin.

3. The RAs and GAs of North Carrollton Church, North

Carrollton, donated \$109.24 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Shown are the participants.

4. The GAs of Indian Springs Church, Laurel, recently purchased toiletries, baby items, school materials, and other mission supplies for an upcoming Honduran mission trip. Shown are the children and Lisa Little, Jennifer Hawkins, and Linda Stringer, leaders.

5. First Church, Plantersville, held a "free day" Apr. 8 for the community, making available furniture, clothes, and other household items for those in need, serving over 120 people that day.



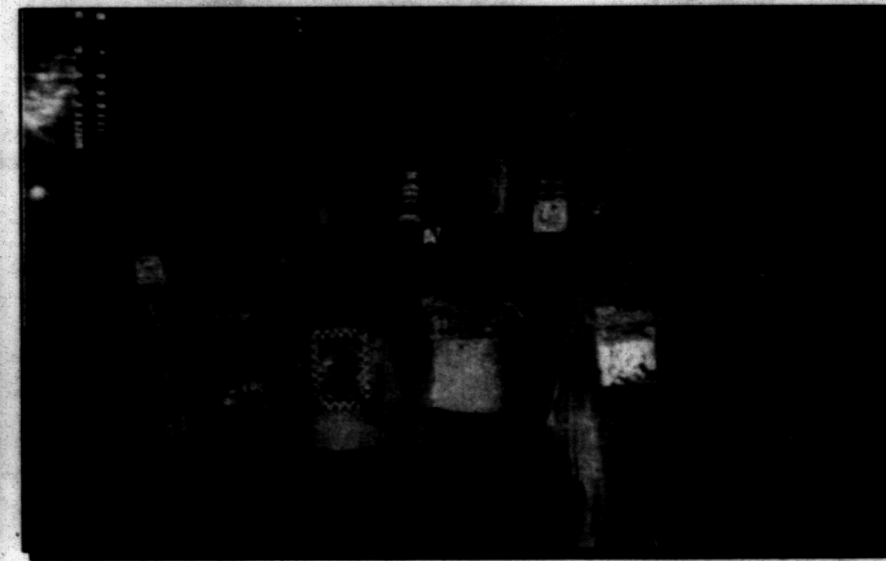
5. "Free Day" Volunteers, First Church, Plantersville



2. Bible Drillers, South McComb Church, McComb



3. RAs and GAs, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



4. GAs, Indian Springs Church, Laurel

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Blackhawk Church, Coila: Homecoming, May 7, 10:30 a.m., and revival, May 8-10, 7 p.m. nightly; Slaton Family, music; Dennis McKay, speaker for revival.

Concord Church, Belmont-Tippah Association: Homecoming and Mother's Day, May 14; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport: One-day Revival, June 11; services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Sonny Holland, Evangelism Outreach Ministries, speaker; Jim Kuitart, pastor.

Providence Church, Cleveland: Revival, May 7-10; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by dinner and singing with Southern Plainsmen, 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tim Mims, speaker; Richard Webster, music; Steve Maughan, pastor.

Bethesda Church, Terry: Homecoming, June 4; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; John McCall, speaker; Joe Wood, music.

Notulbee County: Area-wide Revival, Notulbee County High School gymnasium, May 29-31; 7 p.m. nightly; Fred Luter, New Orleans, La., speaker.

Camel Church, Monticello: Homecoming, May 7; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing, 1 p.m.; Ted Bowlin, speaker; All4Given, music.

Oak Hill Church, Pontotoc: Revival, Mondays With the Master; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 7 p.m.; Chili Graham, Charlie Ray III, Rob Ray, and James Spencer, speakers.

Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point: Evangelism Conference, May 20-23; Sat., Sons of the Father concert, 6:30 p.m.; worship, 7:30 p.m.; Sun.-Tues., 6:30 p.m.; Brian Fossett, speaker; Shane Terrebonne, pastor.

Mashulaville Church, Macon: Memorial, May 7, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; George Dye, Fort Mills, S.C., speaker; Graham Boutwell, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., music.

Salem Church, Kemper County: Homecoming, May 7; music, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Lloyd Hutchinson, and group, music; Jerry Jones, pastor.